

REMARKS

Claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 15 and 17-26 are pending in the application. Claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 15, 17, 18 and 20-25 are rejected. Claim 19 is objected to. Claim 26 is allowed.

Claim 22 has been amended to state that the polymer is a water soluble polymer. Support for this amendment is found at p. 3, lines 21-22 of the Description, wherein it is stated that the polymer is a copolymer of an amide monomer and a hydrophilic monomer; p. 4, lines 20-23, wherein it is stated that the polymer can be formed by solution polymerization resulting in an aqueous product or composition; and Examples 1-8, wherein all monomers utilized in the polymerization process are water soluble resulting in water soluble polymers. Accordingly, no new matter is introduced by this amendment.

Accordingly, no new matter is submitted with this Reply.

Reply to the Rejection of Claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 15, 17, 18 and 21-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 15, 17, 18 and 21-24 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,997,878 to Bock *et al.* ("Bock"). For the following reasons, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 15, 17, 18 and 21-24 as being anticipated by Bock.

As noted by the Examiner, Bock teaches hydrophobically associating ter or tetra polymers. Independent claim 22 has been amended to indicate that the polymer is water soluble. As the polymers of Bock are hydrophobic, they cannot read on the water soluble polymers of the present invention. Accordingly, Bock does not affect the novelty of the presently claimed invention.

It is believed that these remarks overcome the Examiner's rejection of claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 15, 17, 18 and 21-24 as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Reply to the Rejection of Claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 15 and 17-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 15 and 17-25 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,310,124 to Huang *et al.* ("Huang"). For the following reasons, Applicants

respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 15 and 17-25 as being unpatentable over Huang.

As noted by the Examiner, Huang is directed towards aqueous dispersions of polymers process for preventing dye deposition onto fabrics by means of a dye deposition agent. Independent claim 22 has been amended to indicate that the polymer is water soluble. As the polymers of Bock disperse in water, they cannot be said to render obvious the water soluble polymers of the present invention. According, Huang cannot be said to render unpatentable the presently claimed invention.

It is believed that these remarks overcome the Examiner's rejection of claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 15 and 17-25 as being unpatentable over Huang under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Withdrawal, therefore, of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Reply to the Rejection of Claim 2, 3, 5, 7, 15, 17, 18 and 21-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 15, 17, 18 and 21-25 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,089,570 to Rauterkus *et al.* ("Rauterkus"). For the following reasons, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 15, 17, 18 and 21-25 as being unpatentable over Rauterkus.

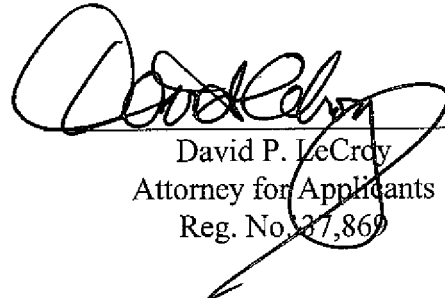
As noted by the Examiner, Huang is directed towards dispersion polymers. Independent claim 22 has been amended to indicate that the polymer is water soluble. As the polymers of Rauterkus are dispersion polymers, they cannot be said to render obvious the water soluble polymers of the present invention. According, Rauterkus cannot be said to render unpatentable the presently claimed invention.

It is believed that these remarks overcome the Examiner's rejection of claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 15, 17, 18 and 21-25 as being unpatentable over Rauterkus under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Withdrawal, therefore, of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendments and remarks, allowance of the claims is believed to be in order, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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